

Message Text

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44

ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-04 IO-04 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-01 SP-02 NSC-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

OMB-01 CEA-01 FRB-01 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 OES-02

/074 W

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R 041130Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4534

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE-US VIEWS ON PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

REF STATE 237804

1. BURUNDI'S ALREADY DEPARTED DELEGATION TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IS LED BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BIGAYIMPUNZI, AND INCLUDES DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CATTLE BREEDING, DR, BERAHINO, AND DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL PLANNING KAFURERA.

2. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD NO CHANCE TO BRING US VIEWS ON PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS TO DELEGATIONS ATTENTION, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY LOCAL FAO REP THAT GRB APPEARS TO FAVOR ALL PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS AND HAS NOT PREPARED IN ADVANCE ANY SPECIAL POSITIONS OF ITS OWN. BIGAYIMPUNZI HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL ATTENTION TO CONFERENCE AND IS INTERESTED IN ANY PROPOSALS AIMED AT FOOD PRODUCTION INCREASES AND BETTER ACCESS TO FOOD STOCKS, INCLUDING PROPOSALS ON PRE-POSITIONED STOCKS CITED IN RES. VIII OF STATE 237804. THIS NATURAL

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VIEWPOINT OF A VERY POOR LDC WITH PRECARIOUS FOOD SUPPLIES

COULD LEAD TO SOME DISAGREEMENTS WITH US POSITIONS.

3. BIGAYIMPUNZI SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO BONN, LONDON, AND THE VATICAN OVER THE COURSE OF SEVEN YEARS BEFORE RETURNING TO BURUNDI TO ASSUME PRESENT POST IN JUNE 1972. HE IS KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY AS GENERALLY FRIENDLY AND MODERATE OFFICIAL WHO TRIES TO STEER CLEAR OF FACTIONAL QUARRELS WITHIN RULING GROUP THAT PREOCCUPY MORE POLITICIZED TUTSI FUNCTIONARIES. HENCE, WHILE HIS CABINET SURVIVAL PROSPECTS ARE ABOVE AVERAGE, HE TENDS NOT TO BE VERY INFLUENTIAL WITH WHAT EVER FACTION IS IN ASCENDANCY ON MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS. DESPITE THIS, HE IS APPARENTLY FAIRLY CONSCIENTIOUS AND WELL-INTENTIONED IF COLORLESS ADMINISTRATOR WHO, WITHOUT MUCH AGROTECHNICAL BACKGROUND, HAS BECOME REASONABLY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN HIS FIELD. OF COURSE, LITTLE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED TO LIFT LEVELS OF FOOD OUTPUT OR FARM EFFICIENCY IN BURUNDI DURING HIS TENURE, SINCE PROBLEMS ARE BEYOND ABILITY OF ANY AGRICULTURAL MINISTER TO CURE BY BUREAUCRATIC LEGERDEMAIN, EVEN IF SUCH OFFICIAL POSSESSED MORE ENERGY AND EFFECTIVENESS THAN BIGAYIMPUNZI IS REPUTED TO HAVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, MEETING DELEGATIONS, FOOD ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUJUMB00688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740315-0861
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741174/aaaaclw.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SWF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 237804
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE-US VIEWS ON PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS
TAGS: EAGR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005